MARVEL

CIVIL WAR II

CHOOSING SIDES 6

JESSICA JONES · WHITE FOX · NICK FURY

CHOOSING SIDES
CIVIL WAR II
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CIVIL WAR II

CHOOSING SIDES

EARTH'S HEROES PREVENTED A CATACLYSMIC EVENT THANKS TO A NEW INHUMAN NAMED ULYSSES, WHO HAS THE ABILITY TO SEE THE FUTURE.

IRON MAN WARNED AGAINST USING ULYSSES' POWERS AGAIN, BELIEVING THAT THE FUTURE MUST BE ALLOWED TO TAKE ITS COURSE. CAPTAIN MARVEL DISAGREED, ARGUING THAT SAVING LIVES IS WORTH THE RISK.

AS TENSIONS RISE, EACH HERO WILL HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE:
PROTECT THE FUTURE OR CHANGE THE FUTURE?

JESSICA JONES

THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE CIVIL WAR II #3

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"POST PROLOGUE" PART SIX

NICK FURY WAS RECENTLY DEPLOYED TO TAKE DOWN A ROGUE HYDRA CELL THAT ULYSSES FORESAW WOULD BRING ABOUT THE END OF S.H.I.E.L.D. IF NOT STOPPED. BUT FURY SOON LEARNED THAT THE TRUE THREAT WAS WITHIN S.H.I.E.L.D.'S RANKS. FAKING HIS OWN DEATH, FURY TRACKED DOWN THE CELL'S LEADER, BUT THE TRAITOR ESCAPED. FURY THEN HACKED S.H.I.E.L.D.'S SYSTEMS IN HOPES OF PICKING UP THE TRAIL AGAIN. THE LEADER WAS IN FACT A LIFE MODEL DECOY OF HIS FATHER, NICK FURY SENIOR.

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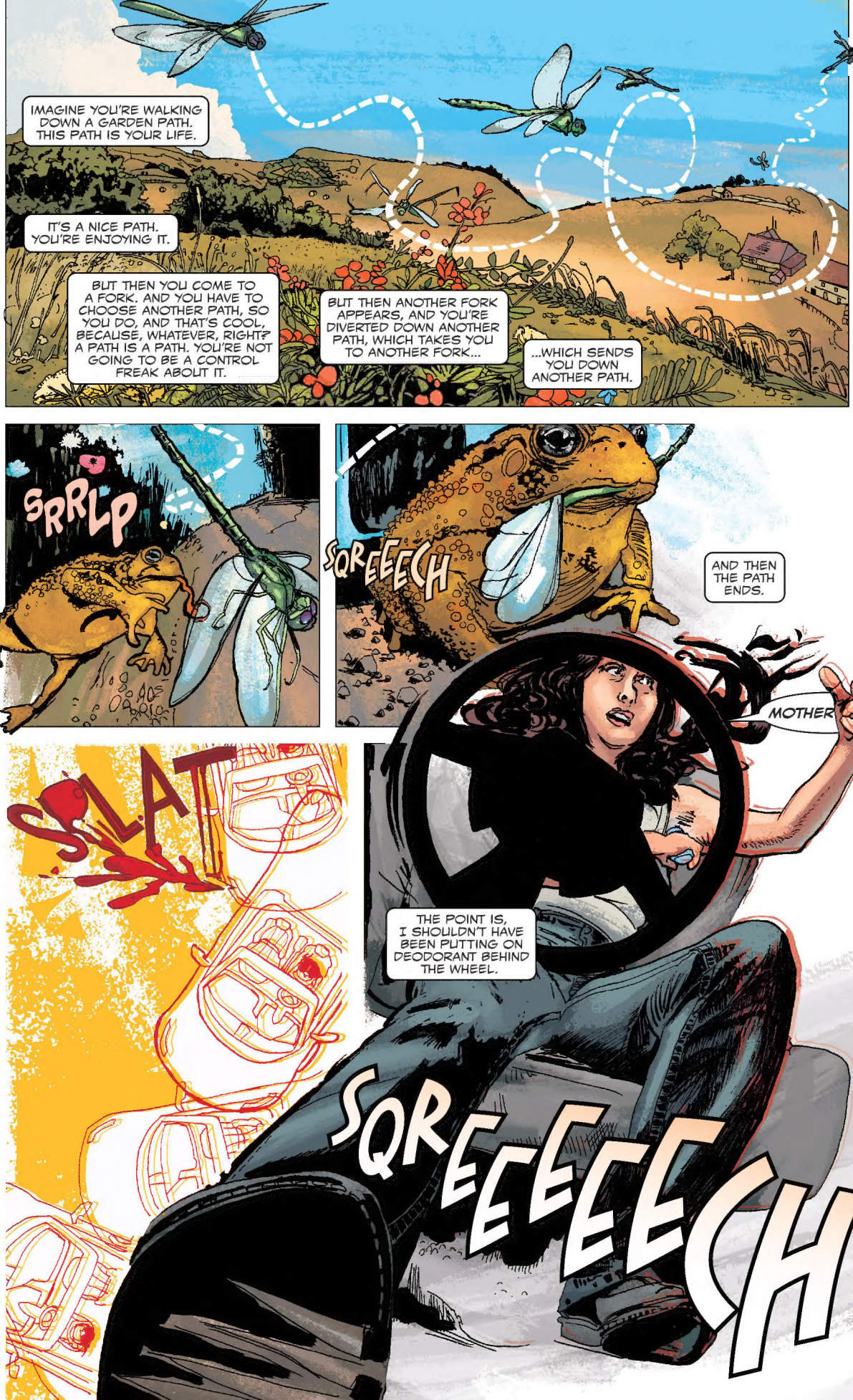

IMAGINE YOU'RE WALKING DOWN A GARDEN PATH. THIS PATH IS YOUR LIFE.
IT'S A NICE PATH. YOU'RE ENJOYING IT.
BUT THEN YOU COME TO A FORK. AND YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE ANOTHER PATH, SO YOU DO, AND THAT'S COOL, BECAUSE, WHATEVER, RIGHT? A PATH IS A PATH. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE A CONTROL FREAK ABOUT IT.
BUT THEN ANOTHER FORK APPEARS, AND YOU'RE DIVERTED DOWN ANOTHER PATH, WHICH TAKES YOU TO ANOTHER FORK...
...WHICH SENDS YOU DOWN ANOTHER PATH.
SRRLP
SQREEECH
AND THEN THE PATH ENDS.
MOTHER
SLAT
THE POINT IS, I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN PUTTING ON DEODORANT BEHIND THE WHEEL.
SQREEEEEECH

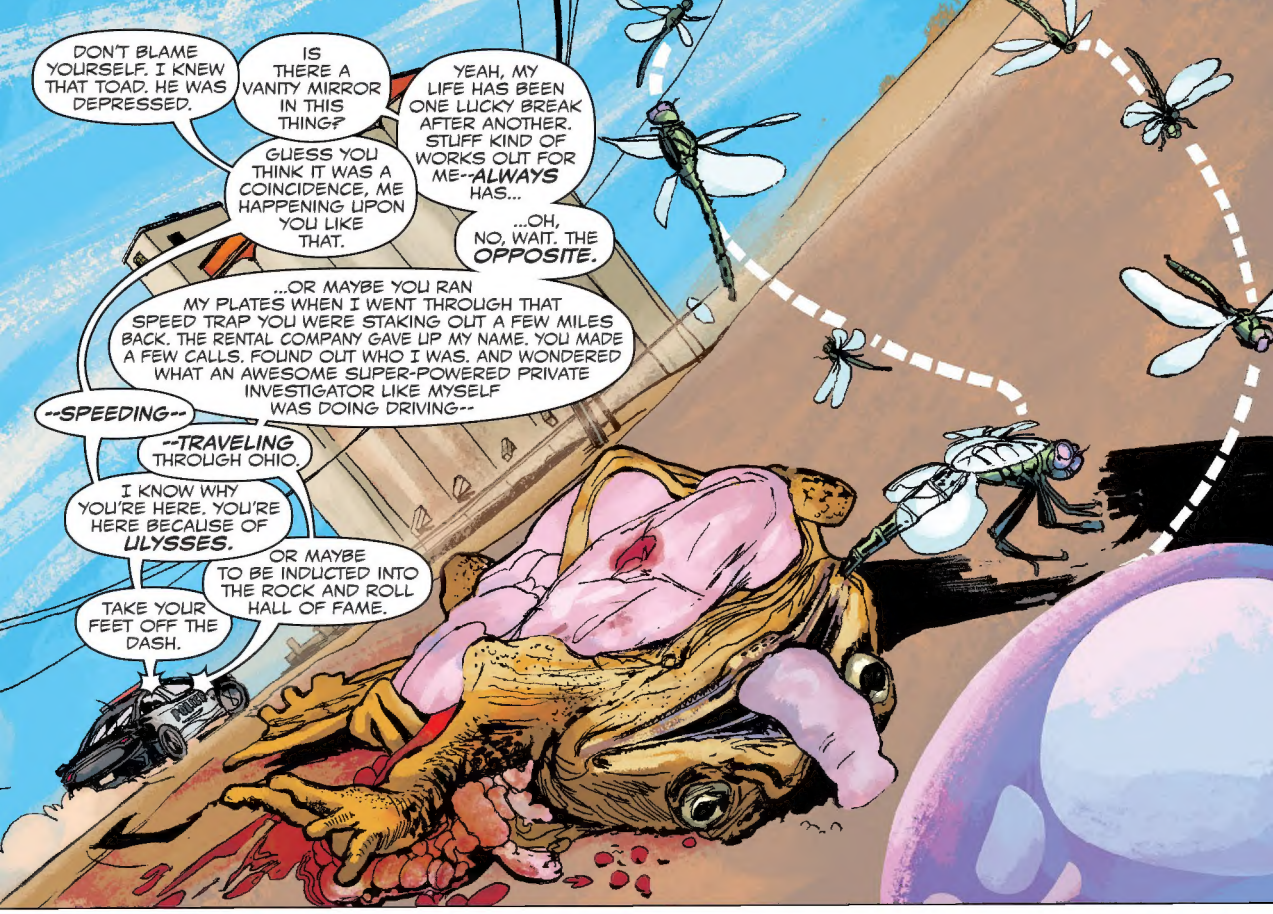
YEAH. MECHANICAL FAILURE.
I DON'T KNOW. BUT I NEED A TOW TRUCK...I RENTED THE CAR IN CINCINNATI. YEAH. I'M STILL IN OHIO. OUTSIDE POINT PLEASANT.
YES, I'M CERTAIN I'M STILL IN OHIO. MUGGY? LOTS OF BUGS? A VAGUE FEELING OF DISENFRANCHISEMENT? NO...YOU'RE NOT HEARING ME. IT WON'T START. CAN YOU SEND A TOW TRUCK?
WHAT? ...THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.
YEAH, I DEFINITELY PAID FOR THE FULL INSURANCE COVERAGE. ARE YOU LOOKING AT THE RIGHT PAPERWORK? JESSICA JONES? I KNOW I CHECKED THE BOX ON THE FORM.
WHAT KIND OF IDIOT RENTS A QUARTER-MILLION DOLLAR CAR AND DOESN'T GET THE INSURANCE?!

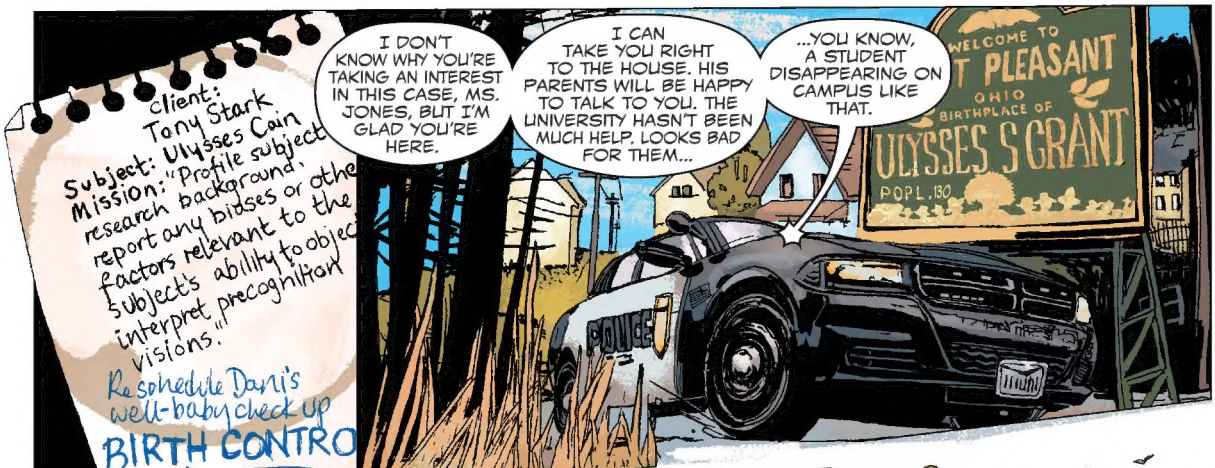
JUST INITIAL HERE THAT YOU'RE DECLINING COVERAGE, MS. JONES.
ONLY SUCKERS PAY FOR THAT. I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES.

TONY? YEAH, IT'S ME. YOU MIGHT HEAR ABOUT A WEIRD CHARGE ON THAT STARK CORPORATE CARD YOU GAVE ME. ON A TOTALLY UNRELATED NOTE, DO YOU HAVE A TRIPLE-A MEMBERSHIP?

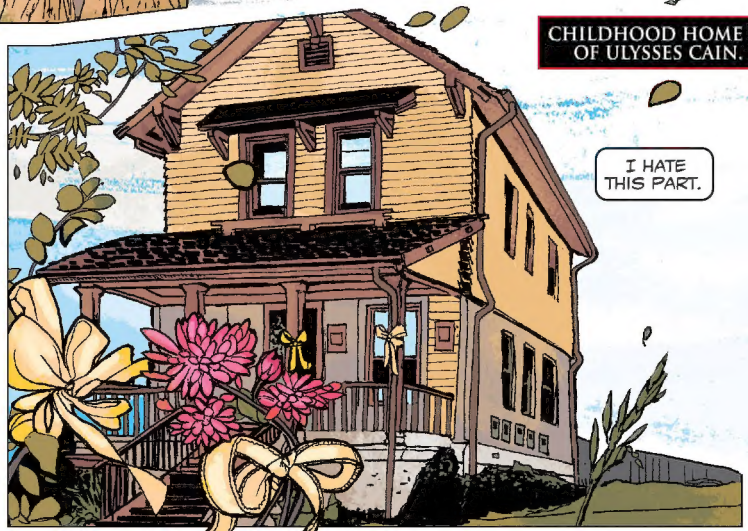
UH-OH. IT'S THE PO-PO. GOTTA GO. CALL ME BACK.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE HAD SOME BAD LUCK. HOP IN. I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE INTO TOWN AND WE CAN SEND A TOW FOR YOUR CAR.
IT'S NOT MY CAR.
IT'S A RENTAL.
I ASKED FOR A MIDSIZE. THEY UPGRADED ME.
THE BRAKES WENT OUT.
BEFORE OR AFTER YOU HIT THE TOAD?
AFTER I HIT THE TREE.
SHERIFF

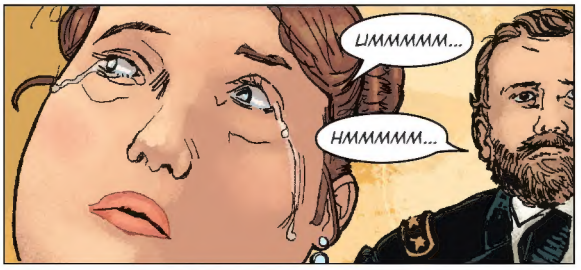

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF. I KNEW THAT TOAD. HE WAS DEPRESSED.
IS THERE A VANITY MIRROR IN THIS THING?
GUESS YOU THINK IT WAS A COINCIDENCE, ME HAPPENING UPON YOU LIKE THAT.
YEAH, MY LIFE HAS BEEN ONE LUCKY BREAK AFTER ANOTHER. STUFF KIND OF WORKS OUT FOR ME--ALWAYS HAS...
...OH, NO, WAIT. THE OPPOSITE.
...OR MAYBE YOU RAN MY PLATES WHEN I WENT THROUGH THAT SPEED TRAP YOU WERE STAKING OUT A FEW MILES BACK. THE RENTAL COMPANY GAVE UP MY NAME. YOU MADE A FEW CALLS. FOUND OUT WHO I WAS. AND WONDERED WHAT AN AWESOME SUPER-POWERED PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR LIKE MYSELF WAS DOING DRIVING--
--SPEEDING--
--TRAVELING THROUGH OHIO.
I KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE. YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE OF ULYSSES.
OR MAYBE TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME.
TAKE YOUR FEET OFF THE DASH.

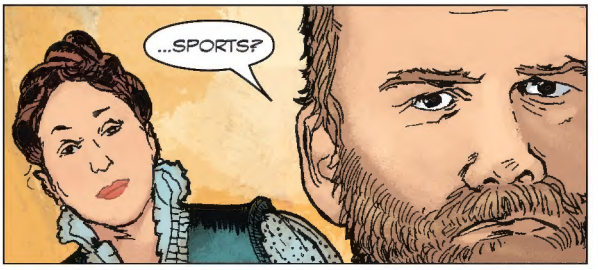

Client: Tony Stark
Subject: Ulysses Cain
Mission: "Profile subject research background, report any biases or other factors relevant to the subject's ability to objectively interpret precognitive visions."
Reschedule Dani's well-baby check up
BIRTH CONTROL
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE TAKING AN INTEREST IN THIS CASE, MS. JONES, BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.
I CAN TAKE YOU RIGHT TO THE HOUSE. HIS PARENTS WILL BE HAPPY TO TALK TO YOU. THE UNIVERSITY HASN'T BEEN MUCH HELP. LOOKS BAD FOR THEM...
...YOU KNOW, A STUDENT DISAPPEARING ON CAMPUS LIKE THAT.
WELCOME TO T PLEASANT
OHIO
BIRTHPLACE OF
ULYSSES S GRANT
POPL. 130
POLICE

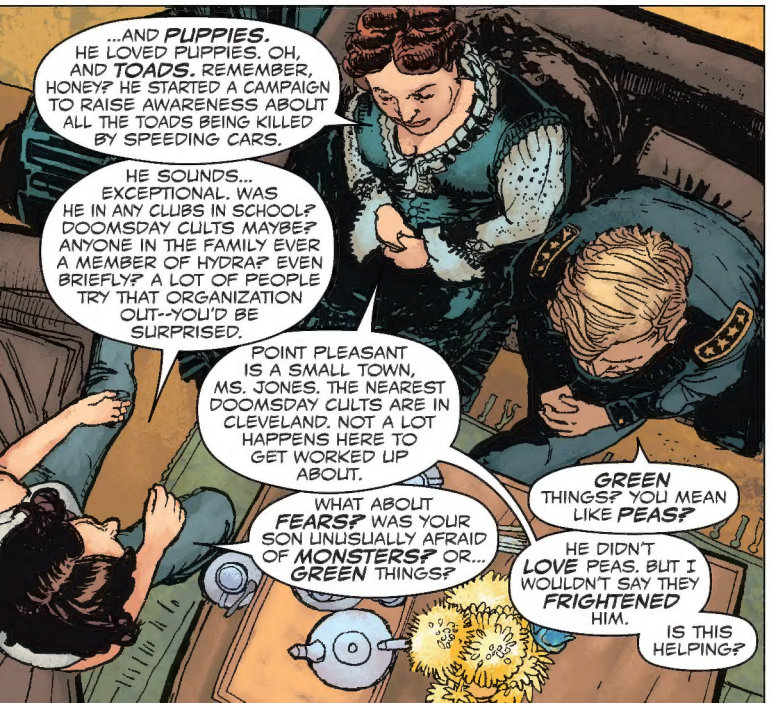
MISSING


CHILDHOOD HOME OF ULYSSES CAIN.
I HATE THIS PART.

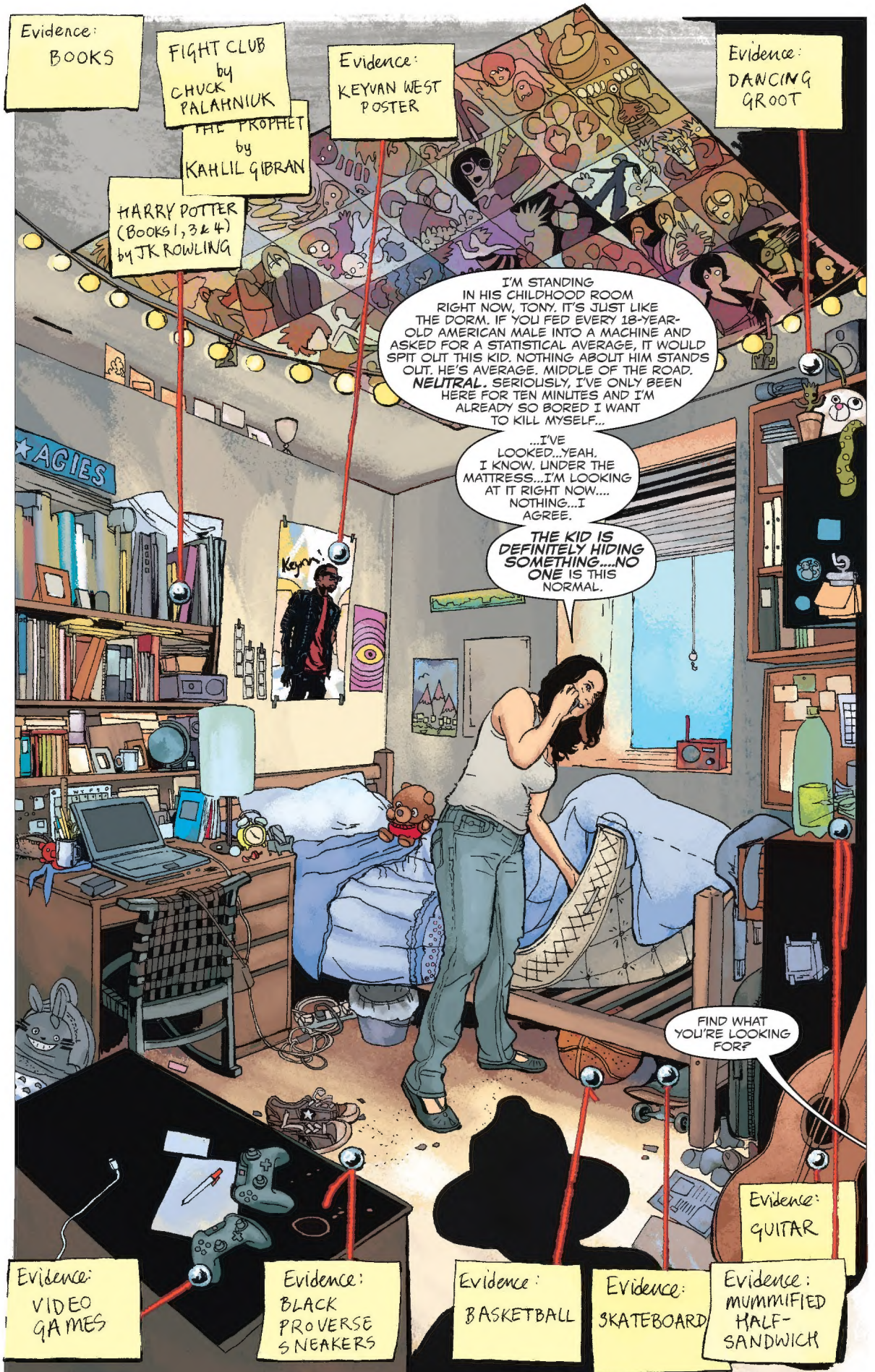
SO...UH... ULYSSES. NOT NAMED AFTER THE JOYCE NOVEL THEN?
NO, NO. WE'RE BOTH TOUR GUIDES--
--AT THE BIRTHPLACE OF OUR NATION'S 18TH PRESIDENT.
RIGHT HERE IN POINT PLEASANT.
WE CONSIDER IT OUR CIVIC DUTY.
MISSING
MISSING
MISSING
...I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND UNGRATEFUL, BUT WHY IS STARK INTERESTED IN OUR SON'S DISAPPEARANCE?
IT'S ALL PART OF OUR CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE.
I'M JUST DEVELOPING A PROFILE. GATHERING BACKGROUND. TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT MAKES ULYSSES TICK.
AND THAT WILL HELP YOU FIND HIM?
IT COULD. I'VE ALREADY ASKED AROUND AT HIS COLLEGE BUT I HAVEN'T COME UP WITH MUCH. YOUR SON SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN ALONG WITH EVERYBODY, HELD NO POLITICAL OPINIONS, OFFENDED NO ONE, AND BARELY LEFT AN IMPRESSION ON HIS TEACHERS.
HE NEVER LIKED TO CAUSE A FUSS.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING. I MEAN, NO ONE IS THIS...BLAND.
WHAT WAS HE LIKE AS A KID? WHAT WAS HE INTO?


UMMMMM...
HMMMMM...

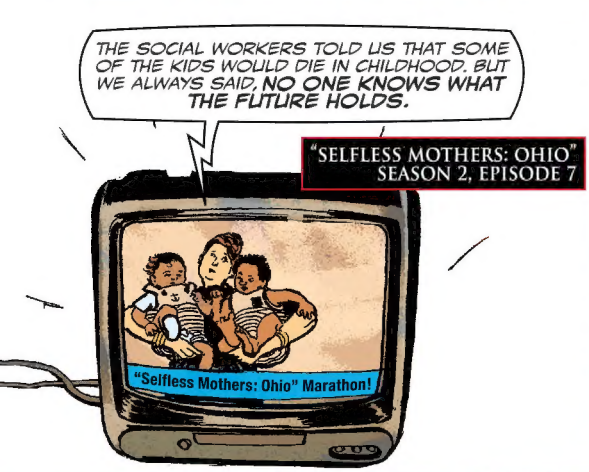

...SPORTS?

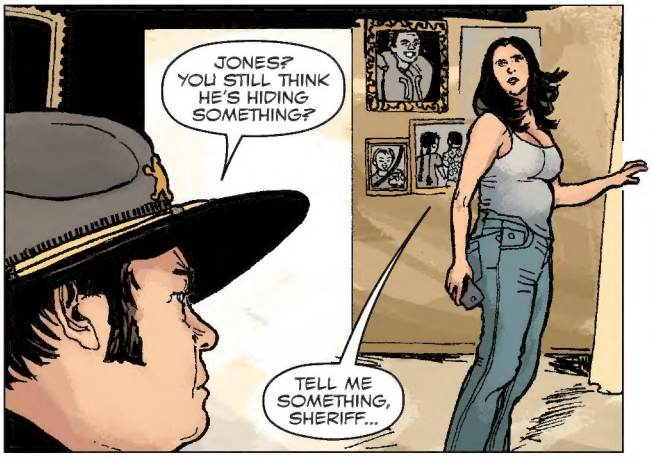

...AND PUPPIES. HE LOVED PUPPIES. OH, AND TOADS. REMEMBER, HONEY? HE STARTED A CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT ALL THE TOADS BEING KILLED BY SPEEDING CARS.
HE SOUNDS... EXCEPTIONAL. WAS HE IN ANY CLUBS IN SCHOOL? DOOMSDAY CULTS MAYBE? ANYONE IN THE FAMILY EVER A MEMBER OF HYDRA? EVEN BRIEFLY? A LOT OF PEOPLE TRY THAT ORGANIZATION OUT--YOU'D BE SURPRISED.
POINT PLEASANT IS A SMALL TOWN, MS. JONES. THE NEAREST DOOMSDAY CULTS ARE IN CLEVELAND. NOT A LOT HAPPENS HERE TO GET WORKED UP ABOUT.
WHAT ABOUT FEARS? WAS YOUR SON UNUSUALLY AFRAID OF MONSTERS? OR... GREEN THINGS?
GREEN THINGS? YOU MEAN LIKE PEAS?
HE DIDN'T LOVE PEAS. BUT I WOULDN'T SAY THEY FRIGHTENED HIM.
IS THIS HELPING?

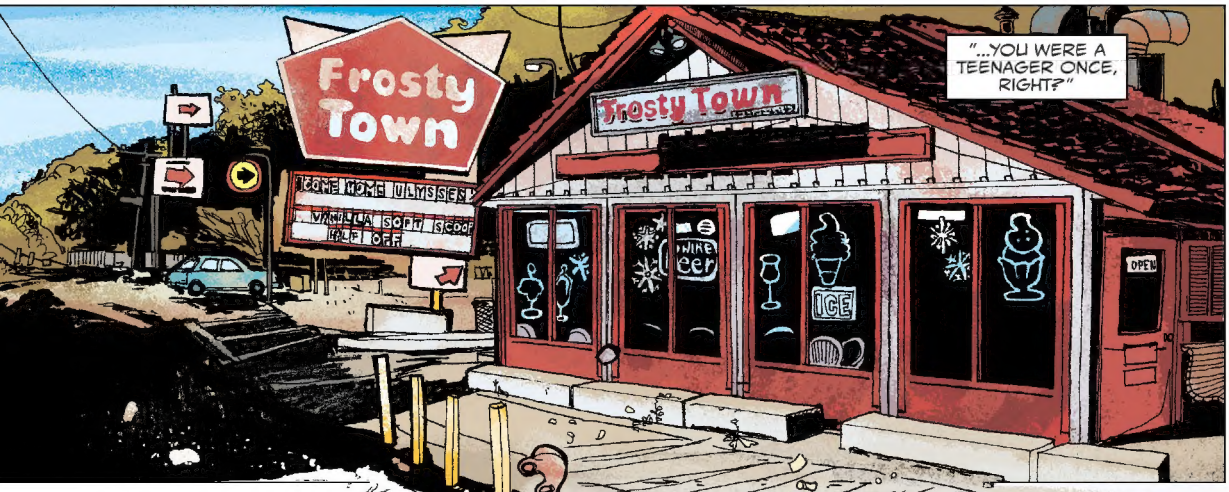
COULD I SEE HIS ROOM?

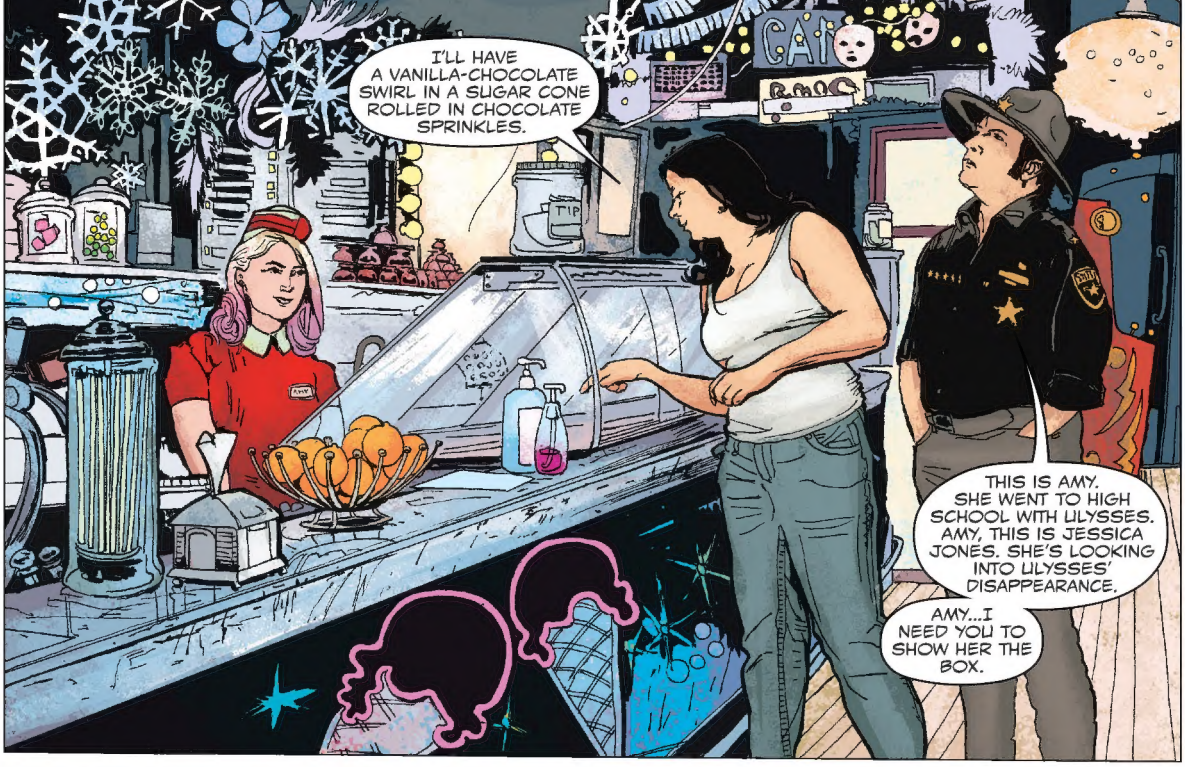

Evidence: BOOKS
FIGHT CLUB by CHUCK PALAHNIUK
THE PROPHET by KAHLIL GIBRAN
HARRY POTTER (BOOKS 1, 3 & 4) by JK ROWLING
Evidence: KEYVAN WEST POSTER
Evidence: DANCING GROOT
I'M STANDING IN HIS CHILDHOOD ROOM RIGHT NOW, TONY. IT'S JUST LIKE THE DORM. IF YOU FED EVERY 18-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN MALE INTO A MACHINE AND ASKED FOR A STATISTICAL AVERAGE, IT WOULD SPIT OUT THIS KID. NOTHING ABOUT HIM STANDS OUT. HE'S AVERAGE. MIDDLE OF THE ROAD. NEUTRAL. SERIOUSLY, I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE FOR TEN MINUTES AND I'M ALREADY SO BORED I WANT TO KILL MYSELF...
...I'VE LOOKED...YEAH. I KNOW. UNDER THE MATTRESS...I'M LOOKING AT IT RIGHT NOW.... NOTHING...I AGREE.
THE KID IS DEFINITELY HIDING SOMETHING....NO ONE IS THIS NORMAL.
Keyvn!
FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
Evidence: VIDEO GAMES
Evidence: BLACK PROVERSE SNEAKERS
Evidence: BASKETBALL
Evidence: SKATEBOARD
Evidence: MUMMIFIED HALF-SANDWICH
Evidence: GUITAR

I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING, JONES.
THE KIDS IN THIS PICTURE, THESE ARE ULYSSES' FOSTER BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
DIFFICULT CASES. FROM ALL OVER THE STATE. SOME WITH SERIOUS, OFTEN FATAL MEDICAL ISSUES. EVEN A FEW DYSLEXICS. AND A LEFTY.
SHERIFF
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.


THE SOCIAL WORKERS TOLD US THAT SOME OF THE KIDS WOULD DIE IN CHILDHOOD. BUT WE ALWAYS SAID, NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS.
"SELFLESS MOTHERS: OHIO" SEASON 2, EPISODE 7
"Selfless Mothers: Ohio" Marathon!


JONES? YOU STILL THINK HE'S HIDING SOMETHING?
TELL ME SOMETHING, SHERIFF...


Frosty Town
COME HOME ULYSSES!
VANILLA SOFT SCOOP HALF OFF
Frosty Town
ICE
OPEN
"...YOU WERE A TEENAGER ONCE, RIGHT?"

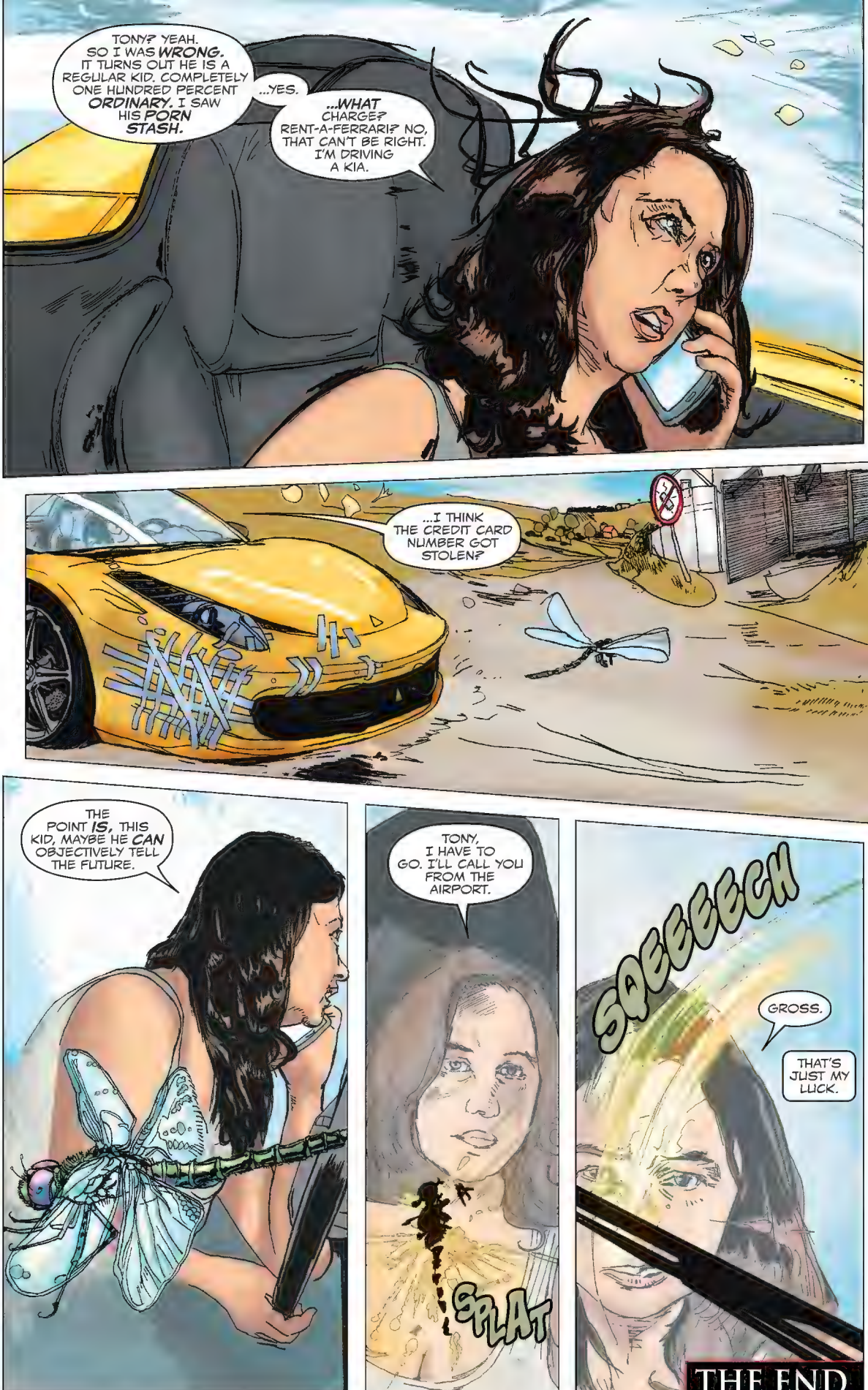

I'LL HAVE A VANILLA-CHOCOLATE SWIRL IN A SUGAR CONE ROLLED IN CHOCOLATE SPRINKLES.
THIS IS AMY. SHE WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL WITH ULYSSES. AMY, THIS IS JESSICA JONES. SHE'S LOOKING INTO ULYSSES' DISAPPEARANCE.
AMY...I NEED YOU TO SHOW HER THE BOX.

C'MON.
HOLD ON. WHAT ABOUT MY ICE CREAM?

AMY AND ULYSSES HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE GRADE SCHOOL. THEY MADE A PACT. IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO EITHER OF THEM, THE OTHER PROMISED TO GET RID OF ANYTHING EMBARRASSING.
SURE. A PORN STASH PACT.
I WENT TO HIS HOUSE AFTER I HEARD ULYSSES WAS MISSING. I KNEW HE KEPT THE BOX UNDER HIS BED. IT WAS ALL OLD STUFF FROM HIGH SCHOOL. HE DIDN'T WANT IT AT THE DORM. HE SAID HE NEVER HAD ANY PRIVACY THERE.
CAN I GET A NAPKIN?

AND THERE IT WAS. PROOF. ULYSSES WAS HUMAN. JUST LIKE THE REST OF US.
YOUR CHANGING BODY
FROM BOY TO MAN
MISSING EYELIDS
GROG SHOP · CLEVELAND
EYEFUL
HOT
18
Good Fortune Is Just Around The Corner
SPECIAL
Wet

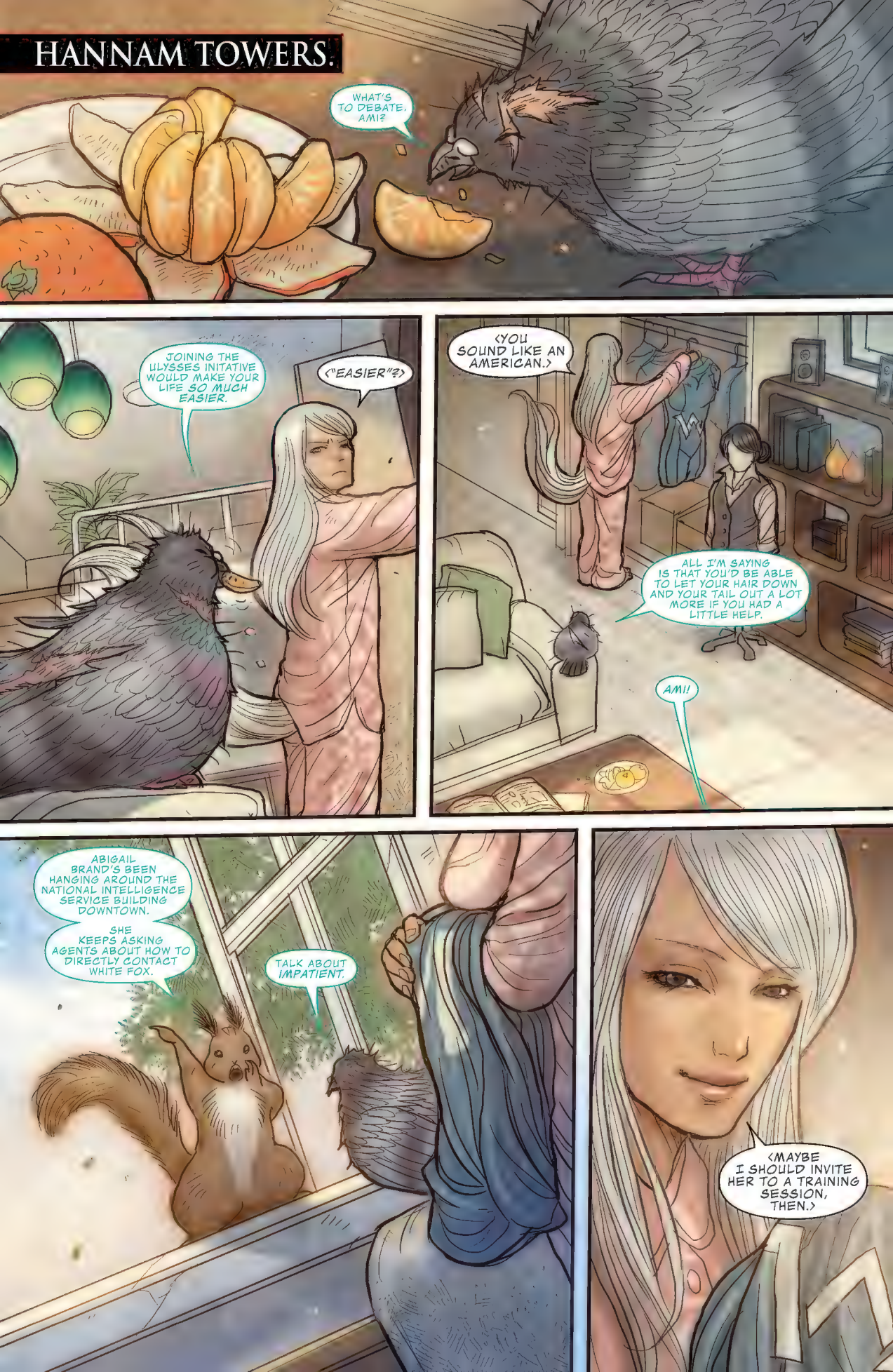
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M HIDING EVIDENCE.
I MEAN, NONE OF THIS STUFF HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIS DISAPPEARANCE.
RIGHT, DAD?


TONY? YEAH. SO I WAS WRONG. IT TURNS OUT HE IS A REGULAR KID. COMPLETELY ONE HUNDRED PERCENT ORDINARY. I SAW HIS PORN STASH.
...YES.
...WHAT CHARGE? RENT-A-FERRARI? NO, THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT. I'M DRIVING A KIA.
...I THINK THE CREDIT CARD NUMBER GOT STOLEN?
THE POINT IS, THIS KID, MAYBE HE CAN OBJECTIVELY TELL THE FUTURE.
TONY, I HAVE TO GO. I'LL CALL YOU FROM THE AIRPORT.
SPLAT
SQEEEEECH
GROSS.
THAT'S JUST MY LUCK.
THE END.

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA.
HAVING WORKED WITH THE WHITE FOX IN THE PAST, AGENT HAN--
--AMI, IF IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO CALL YOU THAT--
--WE REALLY DO THINK IT'D BE IN HER BEST INTEREST--
--TO JOIN THE ULYSSES INITIATIVE.
ALL OF SOUTH KOREA'S BEST INTEREST.
BAAAAAAH!
SO WE'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD PUT US IN CONTACT WITH--
I'LL DISCUSS IT WITH THE WHITE FOX, CAPTAIN MARVEL.
AND WE'LL HAVE AN ANSWER FOR YOU BY THE END OF THE WEEK.
A WEEK?
YOU DO REALIZE THAT WE HAVE A LOT GOING ON RIGHT NOW, RIGHT?
EASY, ABIGAIL...
OF COURSE, MS. BRAND. BY ALL MEANS, TAKE CARE OF WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF. WE'LL BE HERE.
AND AT THE END OF THE WEEK, WE'LL HAVE YOUR ANSWER.

ITAEWON MARKETPLACE.
팬더식
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
HEY, AMI!
<AH, I JUST GOT THOSE. THEY'RE STRAIGHT FROM JEJUDO. SO FRESH.>*
*TRANSLATED FROM KOREAN

CAPTAIN MARVEL'S GONE, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, ABIGAIL BRAND STAYED BEHIND.
AND THOSE TANGERINES AREN'T FROM JEJU ISLAND...
...THEY'RE LOCAL. THE VENDOR'S FULL OF CRAP.
<I'LL GIVE YOU ONE KILO FOR 6,500 WON.>
<IT'S A GOOD PRICE.>
<I'LL GIVE YOU 5,000 WON.>
<BUT THEY'RE-->
<--NOT FROM JEJUDO. SO YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO CHARGE ME WHAT'S FAIR.>
<DO YOU UNDERSTAND?>
<OF COURSE! FAIR'S FAIR.>
<5,000 WON IT IS!>
<5,000 WON IT IS!>

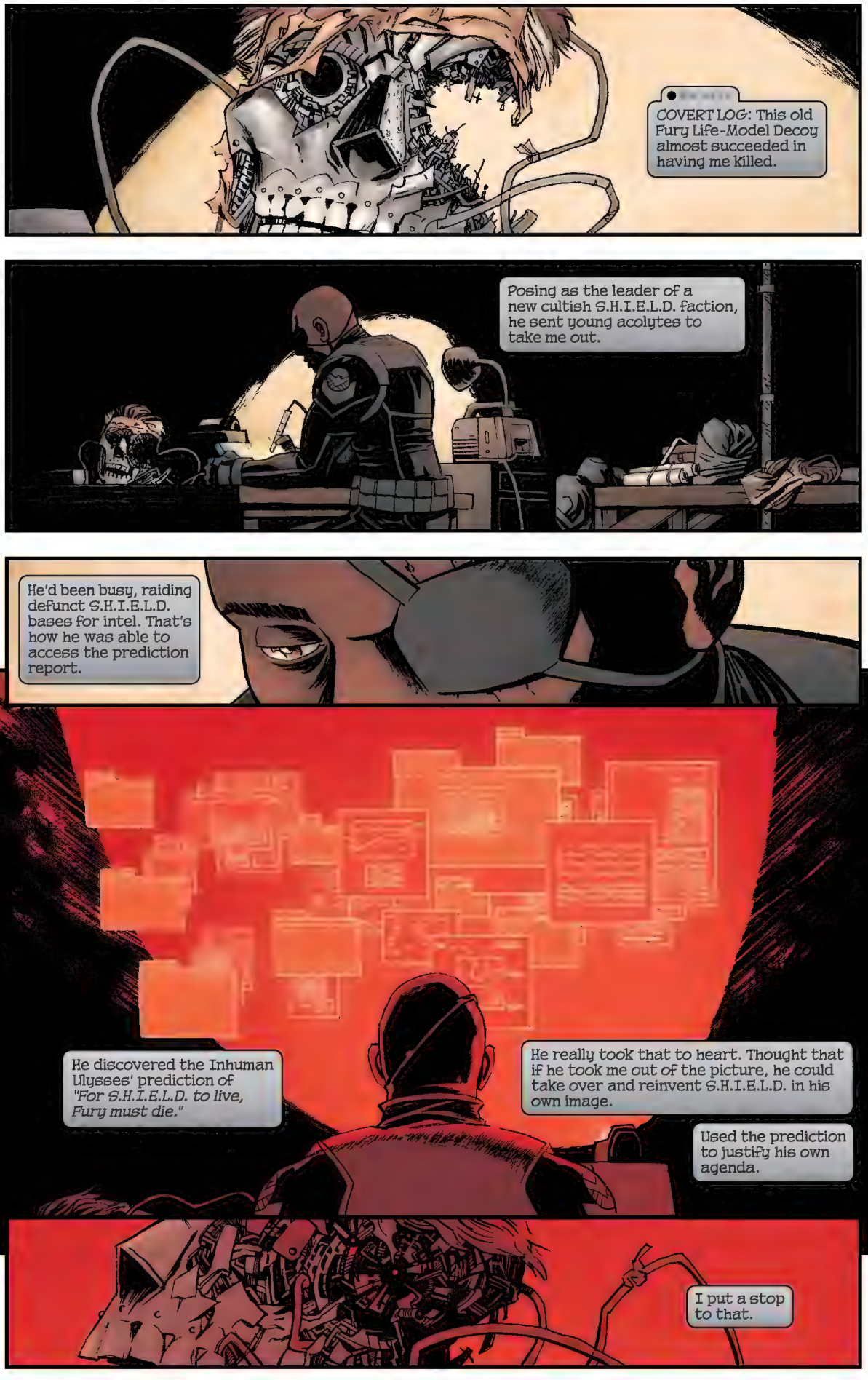

HANNAM TOWERS.
WHAT'S TO DEBATE, AMI?
JOINING THE ULYSSES INITATIVE WOULD MAKE YOUR LIFE SO MUCH EASIER.
("EASIER"?)
<YOU SOUND LIKE AN AMERICAN.>
ALL I'M SAYING IS THAT YOU'D BE ABLE TO LET YOUR HAIR DOWN AND YOUR TAIL OUT A LOT MORE IF YOU HAD A LITTLE HELP.
AMI!
ABIGAIL BRAND'S BEEN HANGING AROUND THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE BUILDING DOWNTOWN.
SHE KEEPS ASKING AGENTS ABOUT HOW TO DIRECTLY CONTACT WHITE FOX.
TALK ABOUT IMPATIENT.
<MAYBE I SHOULD INVITE HER TO A TRAINING SESSION, THEN.>

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS.
WHITE FOX'S TRAINING ROOF.
NOT THAT THIS ISN'T ENTERTAINING--
:HUFF:
--BUT DID MS. HAN BRIEF YOU ON OUR OFFER?
DO YOU KNOW WHY I'M THE LAST OF THE KUMIHO, MS. BRAND?
NO, BUT I'M SURE YOU'RE ABOUT TO TELL ME.
HISTORICALLY, HUMANS HAVE BEEN NOTHING MORE THAN PREY TO THE NINE-TAILED FOX.
BUT WHEN MY GRANDMOTHER FELL IN LOVE WITH MY GRANDFATHER--
--HE HELPED HER UNCOVER HER HUMANITY.
IF SHE'D BEEN PRECOGGED, SHE'D HAVE BEEN HUNTED AND KILLED.

IF YOU'RE THE LAST KUMIHO, THEN YOUR GRANDMOTHER MUST HAVE BEEN THE ONLY ONE OF YOUR KIND TO SUCCESSFULLY BECOME HUMAN.
EXCEPTION, RULE--I'M SURE YOU KNOW THE EXPRESSION.
DID YOU KNOW THAT AT THE END OF THE KOREAN WAR, THERE WASN'T ONE SOUTH KOREAN SIGNATURE ON THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT THAT SPLIT OUR COUNTRY IN TWO?
WE WEREN'T EVEN ALLOWED IN THE ROOM.
KOREANS HAVE A LONG HISTORY WITH OPPRESSION, MS. BRAND. BUT WE CONTINUE TO FIGHT. AND TO SURVIVE.
THE KOREAN PEOPLE AS A WHOLE ARE AN EXCEPTION.

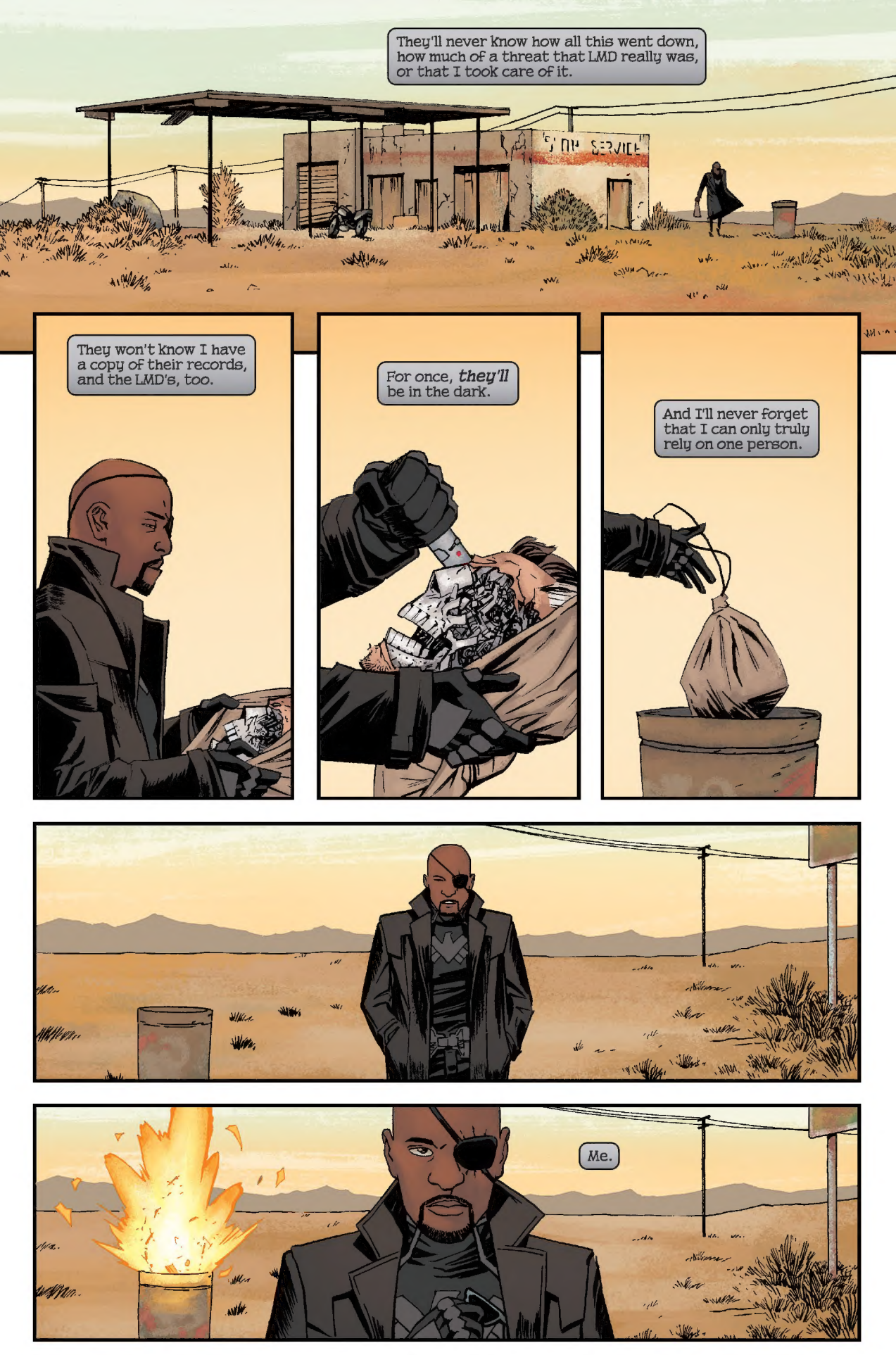
SO YOU CAN TELL CAPTAIN MARVEL "THANK YOU" FOR THE OFFER...
...BUT WE'LL DECIDE FOR OURSELVES HOW OUR FUTURE UNFOLDS.
THE END.

Report.
We have a team excavating the site now, perimeter secure.
Initial scans indicate the main support beam of the base gave way, resulting in the cavern collapsing in on itself.
It was an old base of ours, Director Hill. Nothing to suggest this has anything to do with Agent Fury's death, sir.
Agent Fury is not dead. He's M.I.A.
Of course, sir.
I want access to that base in the next--
Sir! Sir!
What is it, Agent?
Base KRATOS--we got access to the remains. Nothing but wreckage...
...and this...

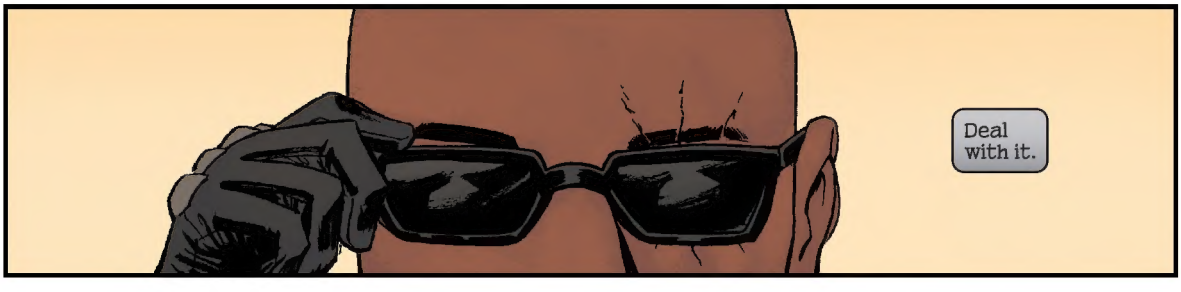

COVERT LOG: This old Fury Life-Model Decoy almost succeeded in having me killed.
Posing as the leader of a new cultish S.H.I.E.L.D. faction, he sent young acolytes to take me out.
He'd been busy, raiding defunct S.H.I.E.L.D. bases for intel. That's how he was able to access the prediction report.
He discovered the Inhuman Ulysses' prediction of *"For S.H.I.E.L.D. to live, Fury must die."*
He really took that to heart. Thought that if he took me out of the picture, he could take over and reinvent S.H.I.E.L.D. in his own image.
Used the prediction to justify his own agenda.
I put a stop to that.

But in order to find out what the hell was going on, I was forced to go underground.
Thanks to a bug I planted on a secret S.H.I.E.L.D. base, I was able to download a lot of classified S.H.I.E.L.D. info and track him down.
But it gets more complicated. The LMD stole the info *from* S.H.I.E.L.D. They knew the prediction and sent me on my mission anyway, knowing I would most likely die.
In a weird way, the prediction *did* come true. S.H.I.E.L.D. would have been destroyed had I not gone on that mission. I *"died"* after accepting it.
And *"Nick Fury"* died for sure, just not the Nick Fury they were thinking of.
So. Mission accomplished.
But now what? S.H.I.E.L.D. thinks I'm dead. Am I better off that way?
I could walk away right now, everyone none the wiser.
Knowing what I know, do I even *want* to go back?

I can see my friend Maria didn't have a choice.
She's the Director of S.H.I.E.L.D. and has responsibilities.
I can forgive her that decision.
Clear the room. Now.
She didn't trust me enough to tell me, though.
Not sure I can get past that.
Can I really trust S.H.I.E.L.D.?
They left me for dead.
But I can still do good there. I can help so many.
MARIA I'M COMING IN
It's time to come in from the cold.


They'll never know how all this went down, how much of a threat that LMD really was, or that I took care of it.
They won't know I have a copy of their records, and the LMD's, too.
For once, they'll be in the dark.
And I'll never forget that I can only truly rely on one person.
Me.

Robinson
10 MILES
When Mama died, my world turned upside down. I needed direction and my father offered me some. I took the job he offered me--hell, I even took his *name*--but it didn't change anything.
Now he's gone. I'm not Marcus Johnson anymore, but I've been hiding in my father's shadow, never able to outshine him, never able to be my own man.
I'll go back to S.H.I.E.L.D., but now I know where I stand with them. I know who I am.
If I have to choose a side, I choose *my own.*



UNKNOWN LOCATION.
COVERT LOG DELETED.

THE STORY OF CIVIL WAR II CONTINUES IN:

CIVIL WAR II

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